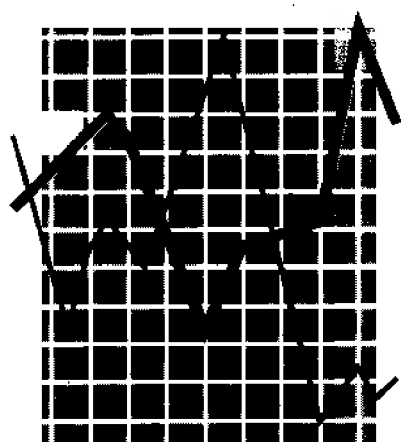


Thursday, 20 October 1994



The week in statistics ...

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statistics

IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

Unemployment trend at lowest level in over three years

The strengthening Australian labour market has seen the trend estimate of the unemployment rate reach its lowest point for more than three years.

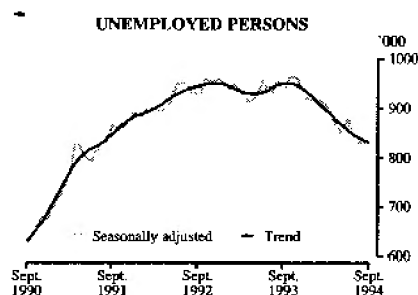
In September 1994, the provisional trend estimate of employment rose to 7,984,000, 4.8 per cent higher than the January 1993 low point. Trend estimates of persons employed full time have been rising since September 1992 and now stand at 6,066,700, the highest level since January 1991. The trend estimate of unemployment has been falling for the past twelve months and in September, stood at 830,700, 12.6 per cent lower than the peak of 950,100 in September 1993. The trend estimate of the unemployment rate continues to fall and now stands at 9.4 per cent, the lowest level since April 1991. The trend estimate of the participation rate rose slightly to 63.1 per cent, the highest level in over 3 years.

Employment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of employed persons for September was 8,009,900, an increase of 75,700 since August 1994. This was the first time that Australian employment has totalled over 8 million. Full-time employment rose by 69,400 to 6,096,600, due to increases of 35,500 in male full-time employment and 34,000 in female full-time employment. Part-time employment increased slightly to 1,913,300 with a fall of 22,200 in the number of males employed part time, offset by a rise of 28,500 in female part-time employment.

Unemployment

The seasonally adjusted estimate of unemployed persons was relatively steady at 836,100 in September. Male unemployment rose 7,100 to 492,100 while female unemployment fell slightly to 344,000.



LABOUR FORCE SURVEY ESTIMATES
Seasonally adjusted

	Employed			Unem- ployed	Unem- ployment rate — per cent —	Partici- pation rate
	Full-time Workers	Part-time Workers	Total			
	— '000 —					
1994						
April	5 960.2	1 872.3	7 832.5	875.1	10.1	62.6
May	5 981.7	1 881.3	7 863.0	851.8	9.8	62.6
June	6 012.1	1 869.9	7 882.0	877.7	10.0	62.9
July	6 034.7	1 937.5	7 972.2	833.9	9.5	63.2
August	6 027.2	1 907.0	7 934.2	831.5	9.5	62.8
September	6 096.6	1 913.3	8 009.9	836.1	9.5	63.3

Unemployment rate

The September 1994 seasonally adjusted estimate of the unemployment rate remained steady for the third consecutive month at 9.5 per cent. The male unemployment rate rose slightly to 9.7 per cent, while the female unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage points to 9.1 per cent. For persons seeking full-time work, the rate stands at 9.9 per cent, while for persons seeking part-time work, the rate was 8.1 per cent in September 1994.

Participation rate

The seasonally adjusted estimate of the labour force participation rate rose by 0.5 percentage points to 63.3 per cent in September 1994. The female participation rate rose by 0.8 percentage points to 53.2 per cent, the highest level recorded by the survey. The male participation rate rose by 0.2 percentage points and now stands at 73.7 per cent.

For further information order the publication The Labour Force, Australia, Preliminary (6202.0), or contact Sylvia Sajler on (06) 252 6525.

Farm production was rising before the worst of the drought hit

Preliminary data from the 1993-94 Agricultural Census indicates an expansion in that year of the major grain industries but a contraction in the wool industry. Some of the main results are as follows.

Wheat

The area of wheat for grain rose by 0.6 million hectares (7.4%) to 8.9 million hectares with the most significant increase being in New South Wales, up 0.8 million hectares (47.9%) to 2.5 million hectares. Production of wheat for grain increased by 2.1 million tonnes (14.5%) to 16.9 million tonnes, with significant rises recorded in New South Wales, up 1.4 million tonnes (39.0%) to 5.0 million tonnes, Victoria, up 0.5 million tonnes (26.2%) to 2.5 million tonnes and Western Australia, up 0.7 million tonnes (11.6%) to 6.7 million tonnes.

Other grains

Barley increased in area by 0.7 million hectares (23.4%) to 3.6 million hectares and production increased by 1.6 million tonnes (28.9%) to 7.0 million tonnes.

Oats decreased by 0.2 million hectares (13.2%) to 0.9 million hectares and production decreased by 0.2 million tonnes (14.9%) to 1.6 million tonnes.

Sheep

The number of sheep and lambs at 31 March 1994 was 132.6 million, a fall of 4.1 per cent from March 1993.

Wool

The number of sheep and lambs shorn fell by 7.0 million (4.7%) to 148.3 million. Wool production fell by 39 thousand tonnes (5.8%) to 673 thousand tonnes. The average cut per head decreased from 4.6 to 4.5 kilograms.

Cattle

Total cattle and calves rose by 0.5 million (1.9%) to 24.5 million.

Please note that the data from the 1993-94 census is based on establishments with an estimated value of agricultural operations of \$5,000 or more, whereas the scope for the data in earlier releases was \$22,500 or more. Therefore the results are not strictly comparable.

These series are available on subscription to a special data service. For further information contact Henry Stefinik on (06) 252 5341.

Housing finance — decline in trend estimate continues

A turning point in housing finance commitments was reached in March 1994, and, from April, the provisional trend estimates for the number of commitments have been in continuous decline. The revised estimates for for May, June and July 1994 show declines of 2.4, 3.3 and 3.8 per cent respectively from the previous month, with the estimate for August 1994 falling by 4.2 per cent on July.

The provisional trend estimates for the number of commitments in all categories decreased in August 1994, with the category 'Purchase of Established Dwellings' down 4.4 per cent, 'Construction of Dwellings' down 3.1 per cent and 'Purchase of New Dwellings' down 4.8 per cent. The revised trend estimates for July for these categories showed declines from the previous month of (established) 4.0 per cent, (construction) 2.7 per cent and (new dwellings) 4.6 per cent.

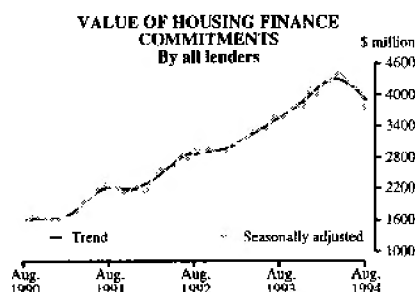
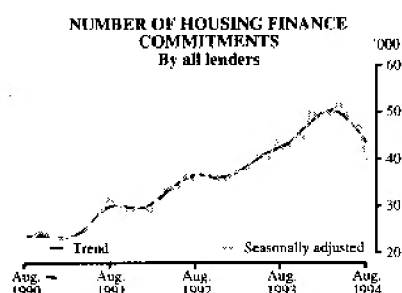
The provisional trend estimate for the value of commitments in August 1994 fell by \$138 million (3.4%) to \$3 893.4 million. The August 1994 estimate for the value of commitments was 8.7 per cent higher than for August 1993.

HOUSING FINANCE, TREND ESTIMATES, AUGUST 1994

	Established dwellings	Construction of dwellings	Newly erected dwellings	Total
Number of commitments				
% change from July 1994	-4.4	-3.1	-4.8	-4.2
% change from August 1993	0.6	3.6	7.2	1.5
Value of commitments				
% change from July 1994	-3.7	-2.2	-3.2	-3.4
% change from August 1993	5.9	18.2	19.7	8.7

Refinancing accounted for 12.1 per cent of the total number of dwellings financed in August 1994 in unadjusted terms, down from 13.4 per cent last month.

For further information, order the publication Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (5609.0), or contact Michael Sharpe on (02) 268 4784





Rapid growth in retail sales

A strong rise of 2.1 per cent in the seasonally adjusted estimate of retail turnover for August 1994, which followed a 2.5 per cent rise in July, has resulted in the trend estimate of turnover showing strong monthly growth of around 0.8 per cent over the last four months. The annual growth rate (August 1994 over August 1993) was 8.1 per cent.

The grocery industry, which contributes about 30 per cent to the total estimate, has closely mirrored the Australian total trend with growth of around 0.8 per cent over each of the last four months. Growth in the hotel, liquor store and licensed club industry has remained strong with average growth of around 1.0 per cent for each of the first eight months of 1994. Department stores have been in decline for the last four months. The other food stores and clothing and fabric stores industries are also in decline. Of the remaining industries covered by the survey, footwear stores, domestic hardware stores and jewellers, electrical goods stores, furniture stores, pharmacies and newsagents were showing growth while the rest were in decline.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

	Original value in August 1994 (\$m)	Average monthly percentage change in trend estimates	
		3 months ended August 1994	12 months ended August 1994
Grocers, confectioners, tobacconists	2 599	0.8	0.5
Butchers	174	-0.3	-1.3
Other food stores	572	-0.6	0.9
<i>Total food group</i>	3 345	0.5	0.4
Hotels, liquor stores, licensed clubs	1 071	1.1	0.9
Department and general stores	793	-0.5	0.2
Clothing and fabrics stores	525	-0.5	0.1
Electrical stores	531	1.5	0.9
Pharmacies	487	1.5	1.6
Newsagents	282	0.5	1.1
Other industries	1 594	n.a.	n.a.
<i>All industries</i>	8 626	0.8	0.7

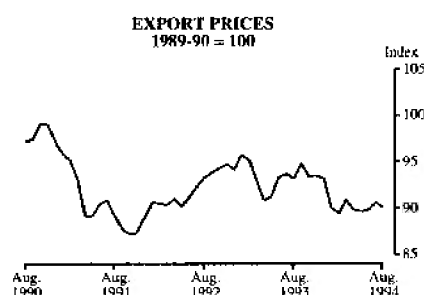
The trend estimates of turnover have shown moderate to strong growth for New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. Growth in Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory has been weak over the last three months.

RETAIL AND SELECTED SERVICE INDUSTRIES TURNOVER

Monthly percentage change in State trend estimates

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	ACT	Aust.
1994								
April	0.5	1.1	0.5	0.0	0.2	0.3	-0.6	0.5
May	0.5	1.2	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3	-0.5	0.7
June	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.2	-0.2	0.8
July	0.7	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.9
August	0.7	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.8

For further information, order the publication *Retail Trade, Australia* (8501.0), or contact Bill Powell on (06) 252 6132.



Export prices down as \$A rises

The increase in the value of the Australian dollar against the major trading currencies led to price falls in a wide range of exported goods from July to August 1994.

Lower prices for wheat and beef were the main contributors to the 0.7 per cent decrease in overall export prices.

Apart from currency variations, the price of wheat fell due to lower prices in a number of major markets, while beef prices continued to decrease due to lower demand in the USA and Japanese markets.

From August 1993 to August 1994 the Export Price Index decreased by 3.4 per cent.

Price changes for major commodity groups are shown below.

EXPORT PRICES, AUGUST 1994
Percentage change

Commodity group	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Live animals and animal products	-2.6	-7.1
Vegetable products	-3.3	-15.5
Prepared food stuffs	-1.4	-4.2
Mineral products	-0.2	-11.1
Products of chemicals and allied industries	0.9	-9.1
Wool and cotton fibres	0.4	29.6
Gold, diamonds and coin	-2.4	-7.2
Base metals	0.2	8.0
Machinery and appliances	-0.3	-1.2
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	0.2	-2.1
<i>All groups</i>	-0.7	-3.4

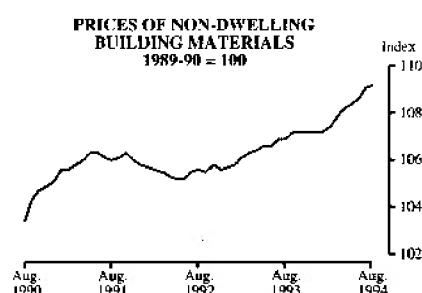
For further information, order the publication *Export Price Index, Australia* (6405.0), or contact Mark Dickson on (06) 252 5541.

Building materials up slightly

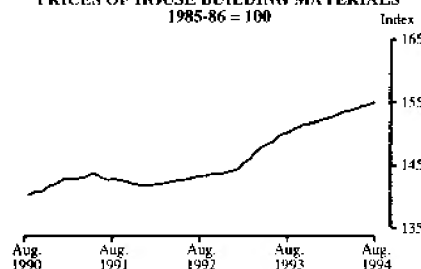
From July 1994 to August 1994 prices of materials used in the construction of houses increased by 0.3 per cent while prices of materials used in other building increased by 0.1 per cent.

Over the year from August 1993 to August 1994, house building material prices increased by 3.2 per cent and prices of materials used in other forms of building increased by 2.2 per cent.

The monthly increase for house building materials was mainly a result of increases in prices for clay bricks in Sydney (3.2%), Melbourne (2.3%), Perth (2.7%) and Adelaide (1.7%). Also contributing to the upward movement was an increase for concrete tiles in Sydney (1.8%) and



PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS
1985-86 = 100



Melbourne (1.0%). A decrease in timber windows prices in Sydney (-4.3%) partially offset overall increases.

Major contributors to the overall increases for other types of building this month were higher prices for ready mixed concrete, particularly in Sydney (1.4%) and Adelaide (3.4%). Precast concrete products also increased in Sydney (3.8%). A decrease in structural steel in Sydney (-3.9%) largely offset those increases.

PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, AUGUST 1994

Percentage change

City	House building		Other than house building	
	From previous month	From corresponding month previous year	From previous month	From corresponding month previous year
Sydney	0.3	3.1	0.0	2.5
Melbourne	0.3	3.9	0.2	1.8
Brisbane	0.0	1.8	0.0	1.0
Adelaide	0.4	3.9	0.4	2.2
Perth	0.6	2.9	0.3	2.3
Hobart	0.7	3.3	0.1	0.7
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.3	3.2	0.1	2.2
Canberra	-0.1	1.4	0.2	1.4

For further information, order the publications *Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0)* and *Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6407.0)*, or contact Robert Adams (06) 252 6198.

Finance in brief...

Personal finance

The provisional trend estimate for personal finance commitments for August 1994 was \$2,169.4 million, a decrease of \$3.5 million (0.2%) on July 1994 but an increase of \$330.7 million (18.0%) on August 1993.

Seasonally adjusted, personal finance commitments for August 1994 were \$2,233.1 million, an increase of \$76.0 million (3.5%) on July 1994 and an increase of \$322.2 million (16.9%) on August 1993.

Commercial finance

The provisional trend estimate for commercial finance commitments for August 1994 was \$8,496.6 million, an increase of \$17.4 million (0.2%) on July 1994 and an increase of \$1,114.5 million (15.1%) on August 1993.

Seasonally adjusted, commercial finance commitments for August 1994 were \$8,617.9 million, an increase of \$314.2 million (3.8%) on July 1994 and an increase of \$1,683.3 million (24.3%) on August 1993.

Lease finance

The provisional trend estimate for lease finance commitments for August 1994 was \$549.7 million, a decrease of \$0.5 million (0.1%) on July 1994 but an increase of \$100.7 million (22.4%) on August 1993.

Seasonally adjusted, lease finance commitments for August 1994 were \$500.0 million, a decrease of \$70.9 million (12.4%) on July 1994 but an increase of \$41.1 million (9.0%) on August 1993.

These series are available on subscription to a special data service. For further information, contact Greg Smith on (02) 268 4788.

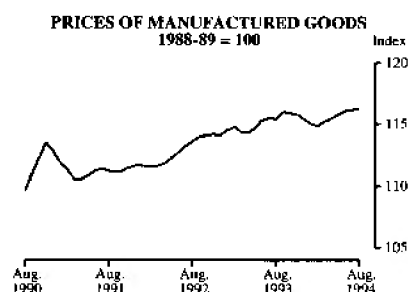
Manufacturers' prices stable

Prices of articles produced by manufacturing industry were stable overall from July to August 1994.

Price falls for refined petroleum products together with small decreases for a number of other items, offset small price increases across a range of items.

Refined petroleum prices fell by 3.2 per cent from July to August due, in part, to increased discounting. While not a major contributor to the index as a whole, coffee prices increased by 11.0 per cent over the period.

The August 1994 manufacturing division index was 0.7 per cent higher than at August 1993.



PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, AUGUST 1994

	Percentage change	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
<i>Manufacturing sector</i>		
Food and beverages	-0.1	0.2
Clothing and footwear	0.0	0.7
Chemical products	0.4	0.5
Petroleum products	-3.0	-6.9
Basic metal products	-0.2	0.2
Fabricated metal products	0.1	-0.7
Transport equipment	-0.1	2.4
Other industrial machinery	0.1	0.2
<i>Total manufacturing</i>	<i>0.0</i>	<i>0.7</i>

For further information, order the publication Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0), or contact Mark Dickson on (06) 252 5541.

Business practices in brief ...

A survey of business practices was conducted during July 1994 to provide information on the barriers that prevent businesses from achieving higher standards of performance.

In addition to the following table details relating to the extent to which initiatives have been implemented are also available.

PERCENTAGE OF BUSINESSES RECORDING SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS TO IMPROVING STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE BY EMPLOYMENT SIZE

	<i>Small</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Large</i>
BARRIERS FROM WITHIN THE BUSINESS			
Lack of knowledge about how to achieve higher standards of performance	6.8	9.9	15.2
Unavailability of skilled people	15.8	18.0	13.2
Poor internal communication processes	4.6	8.6	16.9
Lack of formal consultative processes	3.0	4.3	8.4
Resistance to change from:			
senior management	3.3	3.6	7.9
middle management	1.4	3.9	17.6
union members	1.2	7.0	22.2
from employees	3.9	6.6	10.4
BARRIERS FROM OUTSIDE THE BUSINESS			
Parent company restrictions	1.1	2.2	2.7
Difficulties in finding suitable benchmarking partner(s)	1.6	5.8	12.3
Access to international markets	2.4	5.9	3.4
National infrastructure costs	9.7	10.8	9.9
Problems with suppliers	7.2	8.0	2.8
Resistance from union organisers and officials	2.1	7.8	14.6
Access to information on Government assistance programs available	7.7	4.9	1.8

More detailed tables are available on request classified by industry and employment size.

These series are available on subscription to a special data service. For further information, contact Ross Upson on (06)252 5624.

Suicides in brief ...

Number of Suicide Deaths

In the 11 years 1982-1992 the total number of deaths in Australia increased from 114,771 in 1982 to 123,660 in 1992. As a proportion of total deaths, suicides increased from 1.5 per cent in 1982 to 1.9 per cent in 1992.

During the reference period, as shown in the following table, suicides accounted for in excess of 22,300 deaths with more than 2,000 deaths from suicide being registered in each of the past 6 years. It is also evident from the table that the number of male suicides is significantly

higher than that for females. In fact since 1982, 78 per cent of the total number of deaths by suicide were male.

**SUICIDE DEATHS BY SEX AND BY YEAR OF
REGISTRATION, AUSTRALIA, 1982 TO 1992**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Persons</i>
1982	1 318	459	1 777
1983	1 308	418	1 726
1984	1 309	403	1 712
1985	1 428	399	1 827
1986	1 531	451	1 982
1987	1 773	467	2 240
1988	1 730	467	2 197
1989	1 658	438	2 096
1990	1 735	426	2 161
1991	1 847	513	2 360
1992	1 820	474	2 294
<i>Total</i>	<i>17 457</i>	<i>4 915</i>	<i>22 372</i>

Trends in Suicide Deaths

After the peak in the crude suicide rate in 1963 of 15.7 deaths per 100,000 of the mean population, the rate showed a small decline in subsequent years before stabilising in the early 1970s. Between 1973 and 1985 the crude rate remained at around 11 suicide deaths per 100,000 of the mean population but then began to rise again, peaking in 1987 at 13.8 suicide deaths per 100,000 of the mean population.

Between 1982 and 1992 the crude suicide rate increased by 12 per cent from 11.7 to 13.1 deaths per 100,000 of the mean population. However, on an age standardised basis the increase over the decade 1982-1992 was 7.5 per cent, indicating that a change in age composition explains some of the upward trend.

Source: Suicides, Australia, 1982-1992 (3309.0).

Order from the following:

Expected releases over fortnight to 1 November

- 19 Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, September 1994, Preliminary (9301.0; \$12.00)
- 20 Merchandise Imports, Australia: Balance of Payments Basis (5320.0; \$10.00)
- 21 Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, August 1994 (6411.0; \$11.00)
Import Price Index, Australia, August 1994 (6414.0; \$8.50)
- 26 Consumer Price Index, September Quarter 1994 (6401.0; \$12.00)
Manufacturing Production, Australia, September 1994, Preliminary (8301.0; \$11.00)

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Statistics Weekly
20 October 1994

Selected releases: 12 to 18 October

General

Publications Advice, 14 October 1994 (1105.0; free)
Publications Advice, 18 October 1994 (1105.0; free)

Social statistics

Renters in Aust., April 1994, Preliminary (4138.0; \$10.00) — *new issue*

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., August 1994 (5609.0; \$11.00)
State Estimates of Private New Capital Expenditure, June Qtr 1994 (5646.0; \$11.00)

Labour statistics and prices

The Labour Force, Aust., September 1994, Preliminary (6202.0; \$11.00)
The Labour Force, Aust. — Preliminary Data on Floppy Disk, September 1994 (6271.0; \$66.30)
Job Vacancies and Overtime, Aust., August 1994 (6354.0; \$13.00)
Export Price Index, Aust., August 1994 (6405.0; \$8.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, August 1994 (6407.0; \$11.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, August 1994 (6408.0; \$8.50)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Aust., August 1994 (6412.0; \$11.00)
Price Index of Western Australian Produced Hardwoods, Sep 1992 to June 1994 (6410.5; \$10.00) — *new issue*

Agriculture

Livestock and Livestock Products, WA, 1992-93 (7221.5; \$16.50)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food, May Qtr to July Qtr 1994 (8359.0; \$11.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, May Qtr to July Qtr 1994 (8360.0; \$11.00)
Retail Trade, Aust., August 1994 (8501.0; \$11.00)
Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, August 1994 (8504.0; \$11.00)
Engineering Construction Activity, Aust., June Qtr 1994 (8762.0; \$11.00)
Construction Activity at Constant Prices, Aust., June Qtr 1994 (8782.0; \$11.00)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, July 1994 (8741.1; \$11.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Food, Drink, Tobacco, Stock and Poultry Food, May Qtr to July Qtr 1994 (8359.0; \$11.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Fibres, Yarns, Fabrics, Bedding and Floor Coverings, May Qtr to July Qtr 1994 (8360.0; \$11.00)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Vic., July 1994 (8741.2; \$11.00)
Building Activity, Vic., June Qtr 1994 (8752.2; \$11.00)
Manufacturing Industry, Qld, 1991-92 (8221.3; \$16.50)
Building Activity, Qld, June Qtr 1994 (8752.3; \$11.00)
Manufacturing Industry, WA, 1991-92 (8221.5; \$16.50)
Building Activity, WA, June Qtr 1994 (8752.5; \$11.00)
Building Approvals, Tas., August 1994 (8731.6; \$11.00)
Building Activity, NT, June Qtr 1994 (8752.7; \$11.00)
Building Activity, ACT, June Qtr 1994 (8752.8; \$11.00)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, WA, August 1994 (9303.5; \$8.50)

Key national indicators	Period	Units	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National accounts						
Gross domestic product (GDP(A)) at 1989-90 prices	June qtr 94	\$m	99 058	100 666	0.9	4.3
International accounts						
Balance on current account (b)	August 94	\$m	- 2 708	- 2 139	- 18	- 61
Balance on merchandise trade (b)	"	"	- 1 390	- 869	- 50	—
Balance on goods and services (b)	"	"	- 1 608	- 1 007	- 62	—
Merchandise exports	"	"	5 306	5 353	2	2
Merchandise imports	"	"	- 6 696	- 6 222	7	17
Net foreign debt	June qtr 94	\$m	161 524	n.a.	- 1.9	4.3
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	232 698	n.a.	- 0.2	5.2
Consumption and investment						
Retail turnover at current prices	August 94	\$m	8 625.5	9 016.8	2.1	10.7
New capital expenditure at current prices	June qtr 94	"	7 284	6 994	7	11.0
New motor vehicle registrations	August 94	no.	52 930	48 795	- 6.2	- 4.6
Production						
Manufacturers' sales at 1989-90 prices	March qtr 94	\$m	35 184	37 572	2.3	9.9
Dwelling unit approvals	August 94	no.	18 778	17 396	13.4	18.3
Building approvals	"	\$m	2 905.3	2 744.4	19.4	22.9
Building work done at 1989-90 prices	March qtr 94	"	5 783	6 236	2.4	—
Prices						
Consumer price index	June qtr 94	1989-90 = 100.0	111.2	n.a.	0.7	1.7
Articles produced by manufacturing industry	August 94	1988-89 = 100.0	116.2	n.a.	0.0	0.7
Materials used in manufacturing industries	July 94	1984-85 = 100.0	125.1	n.a.	0.9	- 1.7
Labour force and demography						
Employed persons	September 94	'000	8 087.4	8 009.9	1.0	3.9
Participation rate †	"	%	63.8	63.3	0.5	0.7
Unemployment rate †	"	"	9.3	9.5	0.0	- 1.4
Job vacancies (d)	May qtr 94	'000	49.4	53.0	18.5	64.1
Average weekly overtime per employee (d)	"	hours	1.31	1.33	7.5	11.1
Estimated resident population	March 94	million	17.8	n.a.	0.3	1.0
Short-term overseas visitor arrivals	July 94	'000	275	271	- 2.8	11.3
Incomes						
Company profits before income tax	June qtr 94	\$m	5 410	6 115	- 2.5	33.9
Av. weekly earnings, full-time adults; ordinary time	May 94	\$	617.50	618.20	1.4	3.3
Financial markets						
Interest rates (c) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	August 94	% per annum	5.70	n.a.	0.3	0.95
10-year Treasury bonds †	August 94	"	9.35	n.a.	- 0.2	2.45
Exchange rate — \$US (c)	August 94	per \$A	0.7404	n.a.	1	9

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (c) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (d) Later figures expected to be released Tuesday, 18 October 1994.
 NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Key State indicators	Period	Percentage change from same period previous year							
		NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
New capital expenditure*	June qtr 94	25.2	0.3	12.3	5.2	10.5	-34.8	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover (trend estimate)	August 94	9.2	7.4	8.3	5.6	6.3	3.8	n.a.	3.8
New motor vehicle registrations†	August 94	1.9	1.8	-18.2	-7.8	-9.2	-1.2	3.0	-20.5
Number of dwelling unit approvals*	August 94	60.7	17.2	10.0	-14.0	2.0	28.5	58.5	-50.8
Value of total building work done	March qtr 94	-8.2	5.6	4.6	0.7	20.6	4.6	20.3	-4.7
Employed persons*	September 94	4.5	2.9	6.1	2.2	3.2	2.1	1.5	1.8
Capital city consumer price index	June qtr 94	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.7	2.2	1.5
Av. weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time)	May 94	3.9	3.6	2.6	1.8	3.0	3.2	1.2	2.6
Population	March qtr 93	0.8	0.2	2.6	0.5	1.4	0.2	0.9	0.6
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc.	June qtr 94	5.7	6.1	6.1	2.3	9.8	14.7	8.0	6.5

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 11). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important. The ABS should be acknowledged as the source when reproducing or quoting any part of this publication.

